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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Dieter BRUECKNER, et al.

Application No. 09/812,570

Group Art Unit: 2661

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not yet Assigned

Filed: March 21, 2001

For: NETWORK AND COUPLING DEVICE FOR CONNECTING TWO SEGMENTS IN A NETWORK

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

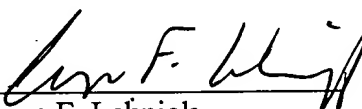
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Application No. 09/812,570

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith copies of two corresponding International Search Reports and two German Search Reports from Foreign Patent Offices citing such documents, together with English-language versions (if not already included) of those portions of the International Search Reports and the German Search Reports from the Foreign Patent Offices indicating the degree of relevance found by the Foreign Offices.

In addition, concise explanations for some of the cited documents are found in the Background section of the present application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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